

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The seven Police Bereitschaften which came from Saxony in November 1948 still remain on the eastern edge of Berlin. The police are in barracks and are organized into three Bereitschaftskommandos. Each Bereitschaftskommando consists of two or three Bereitschaften. A Bereitschaft is divided into Hundertschaften, which, however, never contain more than 80 men. These Hundertschaften are sub-divided into Gruppen, each of 10 men, one of which, armed with submachine guns, is known as a mechanized unit.
2. The commander of a Bereitschaft is usually an Oberinspektor and the commander of a Hundertschaften is an Unterinspektor.
3. All of the officers and non-commissioned officers are Communists; although Communists seem to have been spread fairly evenly throughout all ranks in order to give a communist trained backbone.
4. Attached to each Bereitschaftskommando is a political commissar, who has under him the Party "Aktive", consisting of a small number of reliable and active Communists. This political commissar and his Party "Aktiv" are the real commanders of the unit, exercising their control through the corresponding officers.
5. The usual equipment is the Karabiner 98, although the Sturmgewehr 44 is also used. Submachine guns are used by the mechanized group. In each Bereitschaft there are two to four machine guns (MG 42). All arms are of German origin and there has been no indication of tanks or artillery being part of the organization's equipment. The police have steel helmets in their barracks for use in an emergency.
6. The political commissar gives political lectures twice a week. In addition, every Hundertschaft has a so-called training circle, which meets once a week and teaches elementary Marx/Lenin theory with emphasis on the importance of the class struggle.
7. Some members of this police force have stated that cadres for the future West German Police are being formed.

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8. Military training is along infantry lines. For maneuvers in the open each policeman is given a dark blue-dyed fatigue uniform. Every policeman is trained in the use not only of the rifle, but also of the machine gun and submachine gun. Marching to and from training areas is always done in military order, marching at ease, etc. The best marksmen in each Bereitschaft are reported to headquarters and are specially trained in sharp-shooting. Major General Kotikov (fmu) inspected them once while drilling and expressed himself as being satisfied with their progress.

9. The officers are all ex-officers of the German Army, who were PWs in the USSR, and have been to the Antifa School. The majority of the police are young men between the ages of 18 and 25, who have joined either for the sake of adventure or because of boredom with their previous jobs. Those returned from the USSR are in the minority. Their enlistment is for 10 to 12 years.

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